

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 CPR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3600

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 3337

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EWWT, CE

SUBJ: SRI LANKA-U.S. SHIPPING RELATIONS: CENTRAL
FREIGHT BUREAU MANAGER'S VISIT

STATE PASS TO FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

1. GSL CENTRAL FREIGHT BUREAU (CFB) GENERAL
MANAGER HAROLD SPELDEWINDE WILL BE IN U.S. FOR
TALKS WITH CEYLON-U.S.A. CONFERENCE (CUSAC),
AMERICAN TEA ASSOCIATION AND FEDERAL
MARITIME COMMISSION (FMC) OFFICIALS. HE WILL BE ON
WAY TO MEXICO TO ADVISE ON PORT AND CARGO MANAGE-
MENT ON BASIS MEXICAN EXPENSE PAID INVITATION
RESULTING FROM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S JULY
VISIT TO COLOMBO. SPELDEWINDE ARRIVES NEW YORK
OCTOBER 22 AND HAS ARRANGED MEETINGS WITH HAMM,
CHAIRMAN CUSAC, AND WITH MR. J.H. WERTHEIM,
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN TEA ASSOCIATION, FOR GENERAL REVIEW
U.S.-SRI LANKA SHIPPING MATTERS. HE WILL BE IN WASHINGTON
OCTOBER 24 ONLY. AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE HAS
ARRANGED MEETING WITH FMC OFFICIALS 3 P.M. THAT DAY.
SPELDEWINDE LEAVES FOR MEXICO EARLY OCTOBER
25.

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2. SPELDEWINDE (HE IS CEYLONESE CITIZEN

BURGHHER) IS KNOWLEDGEABLE, INTELLIGENT AND FORTHCOMING MAN WHO HAS BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE WITH EMBASSY THROUGH VARIOUS STRESSES AND STRAINS BETWEEN GSL SHIPPING AUTHORITIES AND CUSAC OVER LAST TWO YEARS. HE WAS ESPECIALLY HELPFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE IN NOVEMBER 1974 14-DAY STOPPAGE OF ALL SHIPMENTS FROM SRI LANKA TO U.S. EAST COAST.

3. FOLLOWING WERTHEIM'S EARLY AUGUST VISIT TO COLOMBO DURING WHICH HE SAW AMBASSADOR, AND IN ANTICIPATION SPELDEWINDE'S VISIT, WE HAVE REVIEWED CFB/CUSAC RELATIONS SINCE 1974 DISPUTE. ALTHOUGH THERE APPEAR TO INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS THREATENING ANOTHER STOPPAGE, THERE ARE STILL STRAINS CAUSED BY, INTER ALIA: (A) GSL/CDB INCREASINGLY CLOSE CONTROL OF CARGO, (B) CUSAC'S DESIRE FOR MAXIMUM FREIGHT RATES AND FLEXIBILITY OF COLOMBO CALLS AND LIFTINGS AND (C) TEA ASSOCIATION'S DESIRE FOR FREQUENT SAILINGS AND UNIMPEDED ACCESS TO SHIPS. THESE ARE MATTERS WHICH MUST BE WORKED OUT AMONG PARTIES AND OF COURSE WE DO NOT SUGGEST ANY USG POSITION. SPELDEWINDE VISIT SHOULD PROVIDE GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE USG OFFICIALS EXTENDING ALL COURTESIES AND COOPERATION TO SPELDEWINDE.

4. FOR NEA/INS THIBAUT: PLEASE TELL MR. JOE WERTHEIM, PRESIDENT, O.H. CLAPP & CO., WESTPORT, CONN. (TEL 203-226-3301) THAT AMBASSADOR HAS HIS SEPTEMBER 24 LETTER AND IS AWARE OF HIS CONCERNS. AMBASSADOR IS REPLYING, BUT WANTED HIM TO KNOW THIS BEFORE HE MEETS SPELDEWINDE.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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